

PORT HURON, MICH., SEPT.2, 1894.

(R. RATHBUN).

*Huron Fish Co.*

*St. Clair R.  
Seine*

*P.  
L. Huron*

*dredging*

*a few*

*Pollution*

Interviewed Mr. Selkirk, who is the manager  
of the Huron Fish Co. at this place. A  
bright, intelligent man, who spoke freely.  
Their fishing is done entirely in the lake.  
The only fishery with nets at this end of  
the St. Clair River is a seine which is lo-  
cated in the upper part of Port Huron.  
There are very few pounds between Port Huron  
and Sand Beach. This company has a few  
just above the head of the river. Mr. Sel-  
kirk complains of the dumping of dredgings  
just above and close to his pound nets, and  
thinks it entirely uncalled for. It is  
done by the contractors for the government  
who are deepening the channel out by the  
light ship, just off their nets. If it  
where dumped a mile farther up, or in the

deeper water at the southern end of the lake it would do no harm either to fishing or anything else. Now they dump on the shallow ground close to land, and so near their nets that they feel it is doing them much damage. He desired that I bring this to the attention of the government before awaiting the sending in of the final reports. He has applied to Gen. Poe, but without getting relief.

9.  
Lake Huron

Gen

Outside of the few pounds the American fishing in the southern part of Lake Huron is done with gill nets. This firm has 2 tugs and 1 sail boat. They said there was no other gill net firm south of Saginaw Bay. Their tugs are often stationed farther north than Huron, dependent upon the grounds they are fishing on as determined by the season. They fish as far north as the Big Reef off the mouth of Saginaw Bay, and from there down

the lake, to within about 20 miles of the river [formerly farther south). The gill net gangs are large ones, but not as many are used as at Whitefish Point, etc. All the fish taken in the gill nets are of large size, the mesh being 4.1-2 inch.

*Black R.*

Black River, which enters the St. Clair at Port Huron, is, as its name indicates, a dark water river, foul smelling with sulphureted hydrogen coming from decay. It would seem impossible for anything to live in it. The odor is especially perceptible when the water is stirred up by the steamers. Had not time to study this phenomena. There is said to be a pulp mill about 1 mile up the river, but it was probably built after the river had taken on its present condition.

